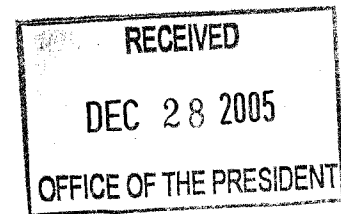




TOWN OF ORO VALLEY  
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December 23, 2005

The Honorable Ken Bennett  
President of the Senate  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Jim Weiers  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Town of Oro Valley, Arizona Ballot by Mail Election held November 8, 2005**

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to ARS 16-409 B, the Town of Oro Valley, Arizona hereby submits its Mail Ballot Election Report for the Ballot By Mail Primary Election held on November 8, 2005.

This was the fifth ballot by mail election conducted by the Town of Oro Valley. This election was the Town's special election placing the Town's General Plan before the voters.

**1. CHANGES IN VOTER TURNOUT:**

According to the Pima County Recorder, Oro Valley total registered voters was 25,025. A total of 8,912 voters returned their voted ballots on time. The turnout for this election was **35.6%**.

**2. RELATIVE COSTS OF MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ELECTIONS.**

**11/08/05 Special Election – Conducted by Mail (Note: Stand alone Election. Cost of election paid entirely by Oro Valley):**

U.S. Postmaster	\$ 11,250.00
Pima County Recorder	<u>\$ 47,587.18</u>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 58,837.18</b>

Please note that as a result of the very active voter registration drives conducted during the 2004 Presidential election cycle, the total number of registered voters in Oro Valley increased by more than 5,000 registered voters from the March 2004 election cycle, an increase of almost 20%.

**3. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR REFINEMENTS IN THE MAIL BALLOT PROGRAM.**

We have discussed the issue of the mailing date for the ballots. Currently, the Oro Valley Town Council, with agreement by the Pima County Recorder, has determined in each election to mail the ballots on the earliest possible date, 33 days prior to the Election Day. Ballots for the November 8, 2005 Special Election were mailed out 33 days prior to the election.

**4. FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF MAIL BALLOT IRREGULARITIES.**

No specific irregularities or problems were determined or reported during this election. 25,025 ballots were initially mailed. 4,043 were returned marked undeliverable by the Postal Service for a return rate of 16.2%

Of the ballots returned:

- 361 were returned with the postal service notation that the voter was temporarily away from their residence but no forwarding address was provided.
- 1,036 were returned noting that the voters had moved but provided no forwarding address.
- 1,000 were returned noting that the voters had moved and provided a forwarding address inside Pima County but outside the Oro Valley town limits.
- 949 were returned noting that the voters had moved and provided a forwarding address inside Pima County but outside the Oro Valley town limits.
- 681 ballots were returned noting that the voter had moved and provided a forwarding address inside Oro Valley. A second ballot was mailed to each of these voters at their new address.
- 16 ballots that were mailed to Military/Overseas Citizen voters were returned. 8 of these provided forwarding addresses and 8 had no forwarding addresses available.

**5. VOTER SATISFACTION WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS.**

We received no complaints or comments from voters during this election cycle.

Overall, Oro Valley voters seem to like the convenience of voting by mail and prefer this type of an election rather than a traditional polling place election.

6. NUMBER OF UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS:

See information in part 4 above.

Please note that of the voted ballots that were returned by mail, 55.35% (4,931) were returned on or before October 28, 2005. The remaining 44.65% (3,943) of the voted ballots were returned in the 12 days immediately prior to Election Day. Approximately 10% (890) ballots of the total ballots voted and returned by mail were received by the Recorder's Office on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

While a majority of voters return their ballots by mail, many still chose to physically hand carry in their voted ballot to place in the ballot box located at the Oro Valley Town Hall.

If you have further questions, please contact Pima County Chief Deputy Recorder/Registrar of Voters Chris Roads at (520)740-4340 for more details on this process.

**SUMMARY:**

As the Election Official for the Town of Oro Valley, I find that ballot by mail elections are more expensive than "polling place" elections, however, they do appear to insure a higher voter turn-out and our voters like the convenience of voting by mail. Receipt of the election results were timely, with the Pima County Division of Elections providing the Town with unofficial results at 8:01 p.m. Election evening. The final certified tabulation of the Returns of the Special Election was received by Pima County Elections Director Brad R. Nelson on Thursday, November 10, 2005.

With the assistance of the Pima County Recorder and Division of Elections, I am committed to making the voting process in Oro Valley as convenient and easy as possible for our voters and my goal is to see our voter turn-out rise above 50%.

Sincerely,



Kathryn E. Cuvelier, CMC

Town Clerk

Town of Oro Valley, Arizona

C: Mayor & Town Council  
Town Manager